

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the title beginning on page 1, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

--IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS FOR  
MAKING LUMINANCE CORRECTION --

Please replace a paragraph at page 5, lines 12-16 with the following amended paragraph:

Further, ~~in~~ in the under-exposure process, in a histogram of the under-exposure image, the histogram is stretched in accordance with the histogram of the under-exposure image so as to shift the luminance average value existing on the low luminance side toward a predetermined value of the histogram.